

Pruitt's Playbook

How the Trump Administration's Assault on the Environmental Protection Agency Threatens the Health of Every American by Putting Polluters First

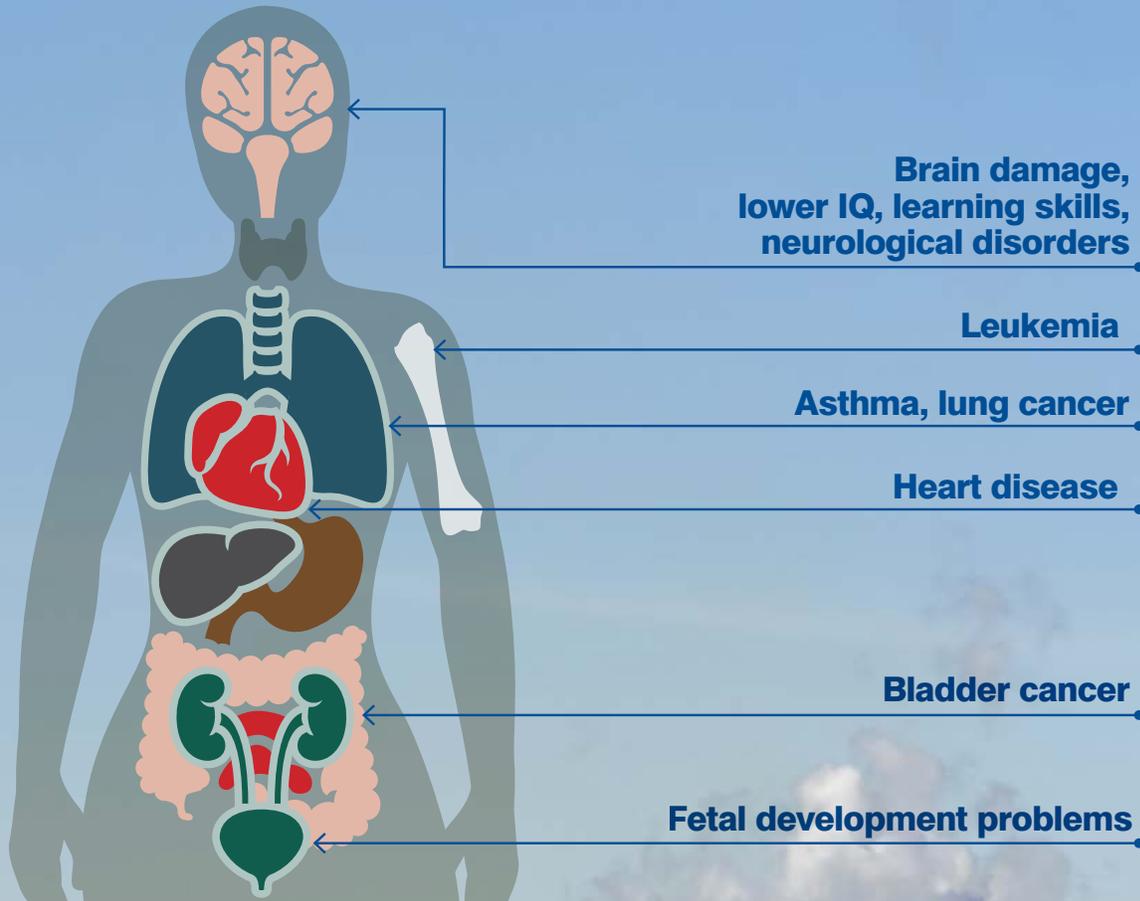
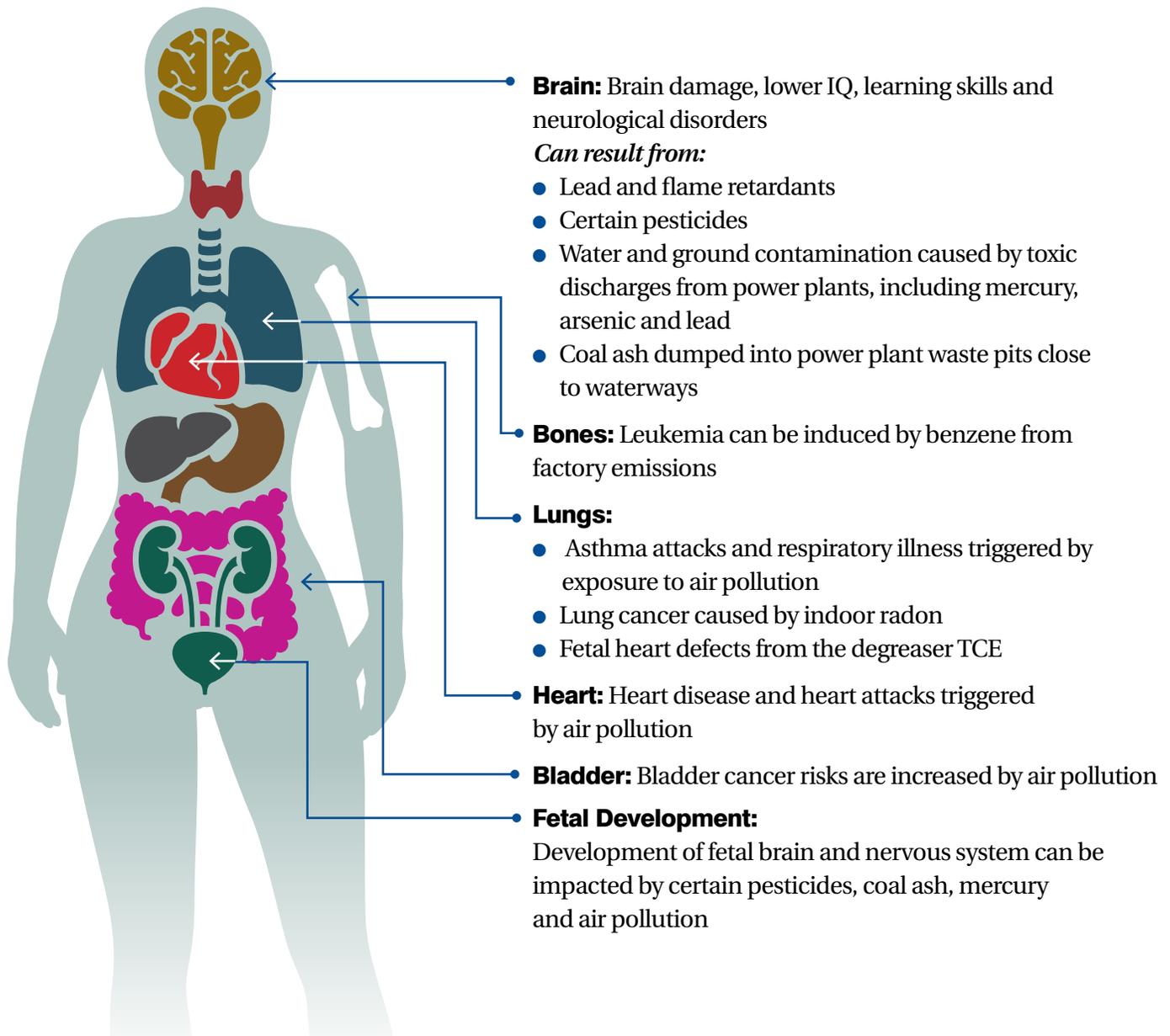


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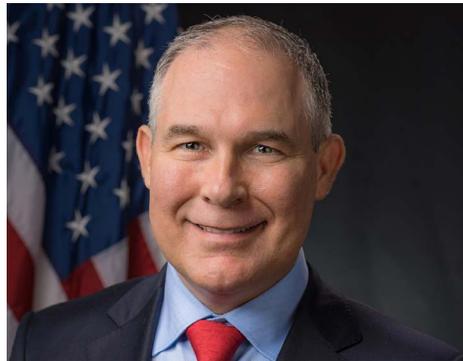
The Pruitt Playbook Can Be Hazardous to Your Health

EPA's budget and policies affect how exposed our bodies are to pollution and hazardous waste. And Pruitt's efforts to roll back environmental safeguards could worsen threats that are very real: For example, coal ash from power plant waste pits contains arsenic, lead, mercury, selenium and other cancer-causing agents. Toxic discharge from power plants forms toxic heavy metals in waterways like arsenic and mercury.



Assault on EPA: The Strategy

Scott Pruitt's strategy puts polluters first



Administrator Scott Pruitt's policies are threatening our children by slashing the EPA's budget, hiring polluters who will protect their industries, rolling back environmental safeguards, and putting politics over science. His schedule is filled with meetings with industry insiders that were followed by EPA decisions that will harm public health. Pruitt's agenda threatens to move America's

environment backward to a dirtier and more dangerous era with higher cancer rates and more asthma attacks, heart disease and strokes.

Americans want EPA to Protect their Environment

- 85% worry about polluted drinking water, lakes and rivers
- 85% call the environment a top or important priority
- 74% say the U.S. should do whatever it takes to protect the environment
- 61% want the EPA preserved or strengthened

Opinion Research: Gallup Poll Social Series, 3/1-5/17; Pew Research Center, 1/17; Pew Research Center, 3/16 Political Survey; Reuters/Ipsos 1/18/17

Former administrators are deeply troubled at what they are seeing at EPA

- *William Ruckelshaus (EPA Administrator under Presidents Nixon and Reagan)*
 "It appears that what is happening now is taking a meat ax to the protections of public health and environment and then hiding it."
- *Christine Todd Whitman (EPA Administrator under President George W. Bush)*
 "The agency created by a Republican president 47 years ago to protect the environment and public health may end up doing neither under Mr. Pruitt's direction....But the evidence is abundant of the dangerous political turn of an agency that is supposed to be guided by science."
- *Lisa Jackson (EPA Administrator under President Obama)*
 "The EPA has been run by Democrats, by Republicans, but has never, in its history that is 40-plus years old, been run by someone who seems to be determined to do the one thing that could destroy its credibility, which is not making it transparent."



Assault on EPA: The Plays

Slashing the EPA's budget

Pruitt and the Trump Administration are championing 30 percent cuts that would hollow out the EPA and cut its budget to its lowest level since the 1970s. If enacted, these cuts would reverse decades of progress cleaning up pollution, including toxic substances, that foul our drinking water, air and soil.

On October 10, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt released a proposed rule to revoke the Clean Power Plan (CPP), which limits carbon pollution from power plants, without even offering a replacement. This despite the EPA's own estimates that the CPP can prevent up to 90,000 childhood asthma attacks and thousands of deaths each year. As the cost of climate change becomes more vivid, decisions like this leave a dangerous burden for our children and grandchildren to bear.

Rolling back environmental safeguards

Pruitt is seeking to roll back and delay environmental safeguards that protect our public health and air, water and soil. The result will be more hazardous waste like mercury, methane, arsenic, lead and feces in our water, air and soil — and more of the cancers, diseases and other illnesses that follow.

Putting politics over science

Under Pruitt, the EPA has been jettisoning and suppressing scientific and public health expertise. It has sought to create bogus debates over established climate science. It has even purged its website of scientific data and reports.

Hiring polluters who will protect their industries

Pruitt is bringing industry insiders and lobbyists into EPA leadership positions to oversee the polluting industries they came from. The EPA is increasingly dominated by people who have spent decades fighting to block environmental safeguards, undermining scientific findings on environmental threats, and organizing contributions to pressure lawmakers.

Assault on EPA: Slashing the Budget

**30%
cut**

Pruitt and the Trump Administration are championing 30 percent cuts that would hollow out the EPA and cut its budget to its lowest level since the 1970s. If enacted, these budget cuts would reverse decades of progress cleaning up pollution, including toxic substances, that foul our drinking water, air and soil.

The EPA would face the largest cut of any federal agency, including thousands of EPA scientists, engineers and other experts who help states prevent and clean up waste and pollution.

Cutting an agency budget already at historic lows.

The EPA's budget has been frequently dropping for 13 years, even as the U.S. population has increased, evolving industries have created new pollution challenges, and cancer rates are rising.

Cuts to programs that children and families depend on

- Cleanup runoff pollution that goes into drinking water
- Fixes to underground tanks that leak toxins into the soil and water
- Monitor pollution to prevent “Code Red” unsafe air days
- EPA legal and investigative staff to make sure that polluters pay for cleanups, not taxpayers
- EPA funding for Justice Department enforcement of Superfund hazardous waste violations

These cuts will be passed on to state and local agencies—and taxpayers.

Putting our health at risk

- More toxic runoff in our drinking water; more feces and bacteria at beaches, lakes and streams
- More asthma attacks, especially among children
- More heart attacks among seniors
- Fewer cleanups of toxic waste sites
- More exposure to lead and cancer-causing radon gas

Assault on EPA: Pruitt's Targets

Examples of Trump Administration budget cuts to EPA programs that affect clean air, water and land		
AIR		
Indoor Radon Grant Program	Reduces radon in homes, schools and buildings	Eliminated
Air Pollution Grants	Reduces "Code Red" and "Code Orange" days	Cut 30%
WATER		
Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program	Fights runoff pollution from roads, parking lots and agricultural lands	Eliminated
Water Pollution Control Grants	Supports water quality improvement and clean up	Cut 30%
BEACH Act Grants for Great Lakes and ocean coastal communities	Monitors fecal, algal and other beach pollution	Eliminated
Public Water System Supervision	Helps ensure safe drinking water	Cut 30%
SOIL		
Superfund	Supports toxic and radioactive waste cleanup of most polluted sites	Cut 30%
Superfund Enforcement	Tracks down polluters + makes them pay	Cut 37%
Superfund Emergency Response Funds	Responds to urgent threats	Cut 18%
Brownfield Grants	Supports cleanup and redevelopment of polluted sites	Cut 30%
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks grants Trust Fund monies to address Backlog of Hazardous Tanks	Protects water and soil from tanks leaking chemicals	Cut 48%
Lead Paint Professional Certification	Helps with lead abatement, risk assessment and inspections	Eliminated

Data from:
United States Environmental
Protection Agency

FISCAL YEAR 2018 Justification
of Appropriation Estimates f
or the Committee on
Appropriations

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-05/documents/fy-2018-congressional-justification.pdf>

www.usaspending.gov

Assault on EPA: Pruitt's Targets

Key cuts to water program in many states, including Florida, Great Lakes States, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia	
Chesapeake Bay Program – MD, PA, VA	Eliminated
Great Lakes Restoration Initiative	Eliminated
Gulf of Mexico	Eliminated
Lake Champlain	Eliminated
Lake Pontchartrain	Eliminated
Long Island Sound	Eliminated
National Estuary Program — FL — Tampa Bay — Sarasota Bay — Charlotte Harbor — Indian River Lagoon	Eliminated
Puget Sound	Eliminated
San Francisco Bay	Eliminated
South Florida Geographic Initiative Everglades — Keys	Eliminated
South New England Estuaries	Eliminated

Assault on EPA: Crippling Natural Disaster Efforts

Pruitt's budget cuts would cripple EPA efforts to help with natural disasters		
Program	Purpose	Trump's Budget
Assess Risks, Deal with Contamination & Support Cleanups		
EPA Homeland Security Efforts	Assesses public health risks posed by major infrastructure and facilities — in coordination with Department of Homeland Security, FEMA and state authorities.	Almost 40% Cut
Chemical Facility Safety: State and Local Prevention and Preparedness	Helps prevent, prepare and respond to catastrophic accidental chemical releases at industrial facilities (including petroleum facilities).	35% Cut
Community Right-to-Know, Toxics Release Inventory	Provides information about pollutants and toxic substances being released into air, water and soil. Affects neighborhoods near approximately 20,000 industrial and federal facilities around the country.	Nearly 40% Cut
Oil Spill Prevention, Preparedness and Emergency	EPA is lead responder for cleanup of inland zone spills (pipelines, trucks, railcars, and other transportation systems). EPA provides technical assistance/support to the U.S. Coast Guard for coastal and maritime oil spills.	15% cut
Train & Support Local Emergency Responders		
Training & Technical Support	EPA trains and provides technical assistance to respond to chemical and oil incidents for emergency responders.	Scaled back significantly
Protect Low-Income Communities from Environmental Hazards		
Environmental Justice	Ensures low income communities have equal protection from environmental and health hazards.	Eliminated

Assault on EPA: Rolling Back Environmental Safeguards

Since Pruitt became EPA Administrator he has been seeking to roll back and delay environmental safeguards that protect Americans' health and environment from dangerous pollutions and other health hazards in water, air and soil. The Administrator has looked to his own team of industry insiders and polluter lobbyists to try to enact these rollbacks, including the following:



Clean Cars Standards

Reduce climate pollution and save consumers money
March 15, 2017: Plan to repeal standards announced



Methane Reporting Requirement

Track industrial methane emissions
March 2, 2017: Withdrawn by EPA



Chemical Disaster Rule

Improve risk management planning at facilities that use dangerous chemicals
March 16, 2017: Rule suspended



Chemical Safety Board

Investigates industrial chemical accidents
March 16, 2017: Trump/Pruitt budget proposed eliminating Board



Mercury and Air Toxics Standards

Limit mercury and other toxic emissions from power plants
April 18, 2017: EPA delayed court defense as it reconsiders rule



Smog Standard

Reduces amount of smog allowed in air.
October 1, 2017: EPA did not meet deadline to announce regions required to clean up smog



Clean Power Plan

Addresses carbon pollution from power plants; would avoid up to 3,600 premature deaths per year
October 9, 2017: Rollback proposed

Assault on EPA: Putting Politics Over Science

Under Scott Pruitt, the EPA has been jettisoning and suppressing scientific and public health expertise. It has sought to create bogus debates over established climate science. It has even purged its website of scientific data and language.



Censoring climate change: Under Pruitt, the EPA has been deleting references to climate change across its website, and even took down a two-decade-old section featuring scientific explanations of climate change. Pruitt deleted all references to climate change in the EPA's new strategic plan. The agency may even remove climate change-related exhibits from its museum.



Science optional: Pruitt dismissed numerous scientists from EPA's Board of Scientific Counselors. A Trump campaign political operative with little environmental policy experience who has been installed in the EPA Public Affairs office vets grant applications and eliminates references to climate (what he calls “the double C-word”) from solicitations.



Cooking the books: Pruitt's EPA has used discredited methods to hide the health benefits of reducing dangerous power plant pollutants particulate matter — or soot. Its political appointees ordered career scientists to erase the economic benefits to wetlands of a regulation protecting waterways. Pruitt has even raised the idea of convening a team of researchers to challenge the well-established scientific consensus that CO₂ and other fossil fuel emissions are the primary drivers of climate change.



Nothing to hide? EPA employees have to be escorted onto the floor where Pruitt's office is located. They are sometimes told not to take notes when they meet with him. Pruitt kept a secret calendar until it was disclosed under outside pressure — revealing how his schedule is tilted towards industry insiders whose requests frequently have been granted.

Pruitt Says, Pruitt Does: A Reality Check

There is an enormous difference between what Scott Pruitt says, what he means, and especially what he does. In public statements and interviews, Pruitt frequently toggles between tough talk and slippery equivocations. Here are some of Pruitt's most common erroneous claims, and the reality beneath his rhetoric.

Pruitt says: *“I don’t hang with polluters; I prosecute them.”*¹

Pruitt does:

- **Hang out with polluters:** A Freedom of Information Act request revealed that in just his first two weeks, Pruitt met with a leading chemical maker, three chemical lobbying groups, the presidents of Shell Oil and the Independent Petroleum Association of America, the CEO of Southern Company (one of the largest coal-burning electric utilities), the president of a truck equipment manufacturer, and lobbyists for the farm bureau, a toy association and a cement association. Since then, he’s spent *less than 1 percent of his time with environmentalists*. His public schedule frequently features visits with his friends at industry association gatherings at the state and national level.
- **Appoint polluters’ reps to highest ranks of EPA:** He has installed lobbyists and representatives from polluting industries to oversee public health and safety efforts affecting their former companies and industry sectors.
- **Undercut EPA’s enforcement muscle:** Pruitt has proposed making large cuts to EPA’s budget and staff that would limit its ability to assess, investigate and prosecute companies and individuals who flout pollution laws.
 - Pruitt proposed budget cuts in May that would ravage the EPA’s enforcement division, which holds polluters accountable, *including deep cuts to enforcement of Superfund polluters and leakers from underground tanks.*
 - He even quietly sought to stop EPA reimbursements for the Justice Department section that prosecutes Superfund polluters.

CONTINUED

¹ *Washington Post*, 11/17/17: https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/paloma/daily-202/2017/11/17/daily-202-how-epa-chief-scott-pruitt-wants-to-redefine-environmentalism/5a0e124230fb045a2e0030be/?utm_term=.be1cf63a67a5

- Eric Schaeffer, who formerly served as director of EPA's Office of Civil Enforcement, calls Pruitt's cuts a *"crass effort to take the heat off some of the biggest polluters in the U.S."*
- Since Pruitt became EPA administrator, efforts to hold polluters accountable are dropping. The Trump administration's Justice Department collected *60 percent less in civil penalties from polluters* than the past three administrations over the same period, according to an analysis released in August by the Environmental Integrity Project.
- The Pollution Prevention Act of 1990 requires EPA to have at least 200 criminal investigators. But there are currently fewer than 150 and Pruitt has reassigned some of them to other duties.

Pruitt forgets to mention:

- v **He owes the industries he is supposed to regulate:** Pruitt built his political career with hundreds of thousands in funds from the oil and industry and used his Oklahoma Attorney General's office as a rubber stamp for their views — even using his office stationary to send in public comments written by industry representatives as though they were his own.

Pruitt says: *He wants to bring the agency "back to basics."*

Pruitt does:

- **De-prioritize public health:** To quote former EPA administrator William Ruckelshaus, a Republican who ran the agency under Presidents Nixon and Reagan: "What is happening now is *taking a meat ax to the protections of public health and environment* and then hiding it."
- **Roll back environmental safeguards:** Pruitt has been working to roll back and delay environmental safeguards that protect Americans' health and environment, including rules involving clean car emissions standards, methane reporting, chemical and industrial plant disaster planning, the elimination of the chemical safety board, mercury and air toxics standards, smog standards, and the Clean Power Plan.
- **Try to hollow out the EPA's capacity** to protect public health with historic cuts to the EPA budget:
 - Air Pollution Grants—30% Cut
 - Superfund—30% Cut
 - Brownfield Grants—30% Cut

CONTINUED

- Leaking Underground Storage Tanks grants—48% Cut
 - Lead Paint Professional Certification—Eliminated
 - EPA Homeland Security Efforts—Almost 40% Cut
 - Chemical Facility Safety—35% Cut
 - Community Right-To-Know Toxics Release Inventory—Nearly 40% Cut
-

Pruitt says: *“Every citizen deserves to have clean drinking water and live in a healthy community. EPA remains committed to doing our part to make this happen.”*²

Pruitt does:

- **Cut programs to keep water clean:** Under the budget Pruitt proposed in May, water programs would be devastated:
 - Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program—Eliminated
 - BEACH Act Grants for Great Lakes and ocean coastal communities—Eliminated
 - Water Pollution Control Grants—30% Cut
 - Public Water System Supervision—30% Cut
-

Pruitt says: *“Whatever science comes out of EPA, shouldn’t be political science.”*³

Pruitt does:

- **Purge scientists:** Pruitt dismissed numerous scientists from EPA’s advisory independent committees, and is stocking it with people who receive money from polluting industries.
- **Allow political interference with grants:** A Trump campaign political operative with little environmental policy experience vets grant applications and eliminates references to climate change from solicitations.

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² EPA news release, “EPA Hurricane Maria Update for Tuesday, October 3, 2017:”
<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-hurricane-maria-update-tuesday-october-3-2017>

³ EPA News Release 10/31/17: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/administrator-pruitt-issues-directive-ensure-independence-geographic-diversity>

- **Cook the books:** Pruitt's EPA has used discredited methods to hide the health benefits of reducing dangerous power plant pollutants. Its political appointees ordered career scientists to erase economic benefits of a regulation protecting waterways.
 - **Fill his team with polluters:** Pruitt's political team hails from the polluting industries EPA is intended to oversee. His highest-ranking deputies, advisors and division heads include former lobbyists and PAC leaders for the chemical, coal, mining, oil and gas industries.
-

Pruitt says: *“EPA’s Environmental Justice Small Grants provide critical support to organizations that otherwise lack the funding and resources to address environmental challenges in their community.”*⁴

Pruitt does:

- **Want to cripple EPA environmental justice efforts** Pruitt proposed in May to eliminate the *Environmental Justice program*, leaving underserved, minority, and at-risk communities vulnerable. “They’re trying to deconstruct and dismantle the basic protections,” says Mustafa Ali, a career EPA official who resigned in 2017 after running the office for decades. “They’re creating situations where more *folks are going to get sick, some folks are going to die*, more folks are going to be put in harm’s way.”

⁴ <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-selections-2017-environmental-justice-small-grants>



Hiring Polluters Who Will Protect Their Industries

Scott Pruitt has stocked the EPA with people who've spent their careers pushing the agendas of industry polluters. Many of Pruitt's appointees are lobbyists, campaign PAC managers and attorneys who have helped some of the most egregious corporate polluters, extreme anti-environmental organizations and Congressmen in the country to undermine environmental protections inside the halls of the Capitol and in the courts.

Pruitt is bringing industry insiders and lobbyists into EPA leadership positions to oversee the polluting industries they came from. The EPA is increasingly dominated by people who have spent decades fighting to block environmental safeguards, undermining scientific findings on environmental threats, and organizing contributions to pressure lawmakers.

ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

Andrew Wheeler



Nominated Deputy Administrator

- FaegreBD Consulting, Energy and Climate Change Practice Principal
- Serving one of the country's largest coal mining companies, **Murray Energy**, and the uranium mining company, Energy Fuels Resources

Albert "Kell" Kelly



Senior Advisor to the Administrator (leading task force to streamline the Superfund program)

- Pruitt's banking and baseball friend from Bristow — no environmental experience
 - SpiritBank (a Kelly-owned family bank since the 1930's), Chairman
 - **Barred from financial industry by FDIC** in August 2017 for unspecified reasons — paid a \$125,000 penalty without admitting guilt
 - SpiritBank **lent money to Pruitt's Oklahoma City RedHawks** ownership group
 - American Bankers Association, Chairman, 2011-12
-

LEGAL AND REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT TEAM

Susan Parker Bodine



Assistant Administrator for the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

- Barnes & Thornburg, Attorney/Lobbyist
 - A **Responsible Party in drinking water contamination** of Hoosick Falls, NY — Saint-Gobain Containers
 - A paper manufacturing trade association, in which many **members are responsible parties at dozens of Superfund sites** and many face hundreds of enforcement penalties for Clean Water and Clean Air Act violations
- American Farm Bureau, which lobbies actively against climate change regulations — as well as regs related to nutrient runoff in water, pesticide use and other public and environmental health risks
- EPA, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, Assistant Administrator
 - Characterized her own tenure at EPA as “placing a priority on voluntary resource conservation and materials management programs...”

William Wehrum



Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation

- Hunton & Williams, Partner (Lobbyist and Attorney, 10 years)
 - Many clients were pollution-heavy oil and coal industries, including the **American Petroleum Institute, American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers, American Chemistry Council, and Utility Air Regulatory Group**
 - Sued EPA to tear down clear air and climate protections at least 31 times in the last decade

Patrick Traylor



Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

- Hogan Lovells, Partner/Associate, where his biography notes that he “has supported tens of billions of dollars’ worth of projects at **refineries, petrochemical and fertilizer plants, LNG export terminals, coal- and gas-fired power plants, coal mines, and bulk materials terminals.**”
- Clients being investigated for possible Clean Air Act violations
 - Bulk chemical terminals operator
 - Chemical manufacturer coal-fired power plant owners and operators
 - Automobile and engine manufacturers

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Nancy Beck



Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Chemical Safety

- Currently the top political appointee in EPA office overseeing chemical and pesticide safety.
- **American Chemistry Council**, Senior Director, Regulatory Science Policy, where she was working at this lobbying group for chemical companies on issues now under her purview at EPA.
- Before that, stymied EPA chemical safety evaluations as a George W. Bush Office of Management and Budget employee. A House Science and Technology Committee report called her input, “very disturbing... the whole point of the exercise was to delay.”

Erik Baptist



Senior Deputy General Counsel

- Longtime attorney for the **American Petroleum Institute**.

Justin Schwab



Deputy General Counsel

- Baker & Hostetler, Associate
- Clients included **Southern Co.**, a gas and electric utility company
 - Helped defend major industrial energy projects against actions by concerned citizens.

David Fotouhi



Deputy General Counsel

- Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, Environmental Litigation & Mass Tort Associate
- Specialized in helping companies being investigated and/or prosecuted for alleged mass tort and other environmental violations
- Waterborne dioxin releases from a disposal facility
 - Mass tort action alleging that air emissions from the manufacturer’s facility caused property damage and personal injuries
 - Clean Air Act enforcement action
 - On behalf of a transportation trade association, challenging a state’s application for a Clean Air Act preemption waiver for its zero-emission vehicle regulations

POLITICS AND PRESS TEAM

Elizabeth (Liz) Snyder Bowman



Associate Administrator for the Office of Public Affairs

- **American Chemistry Council**, Director of Issue and Advocacy Communications

John Konkus



Deputy Associate Administrator for Public Affairs

- Although his job is to be an EPA spokesman, Konkus previews EPA scientific grants and awards for political correctness.
- Trump campaign aide and Republican political operative with no environmental policy experience.
- Calls climate change “the double C-word” and vetoes grants accordingly. He has canceled more than \$2 million in grants.

Troy Lyons



Associate Administrator, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations

- Lobbyist against EPA rules for oil companies including **Hess** and **BP**.

Christian Palich



Deputy Associate Administrator for Congressional Relations

- **Ohio Coal Association**, President

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Elizabeth Tate Bennett

Associate Administrator, Office of Public Engagement and Environmental Education

- National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association, Lobbyist (Association members are predominantly coal-powered utilities)
 - Liaison to the Coal Utilization Research Council, Utility Solid Waste Activities Group (USWAG), Washington Coal Club
 - Designated NRECA campaign contributions for all EPW/E&C/Appropriations Committee Members
 - Assisted EPA Transition Team with Pruitt's confirmation hearing process, including efforts to facilitate industry op-eds
 - Legislative Assistant for Energy & Agriculture, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell
-

POLICY ADVISOR

George Sugiyama



Deputy Associate Administrator for Policy (also served on Transition Team)

- Troutman Sanders, Attorney
 - Clients included the **National Mining Association** and **Southern Co.**, a major gas and electric company
 - Focused on environmental regulation, especially Clean Air Act

REGIONAL TEAM LEADS

Pruitt's EPA regional team lead built significant pro-polluter records during their tenures at state environmental regulatory agencies.

Trey Glenn



Region 4 Administrator

- Oversees EPA operations in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.
 - Reassigned as director of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management amid ethics investigation over pay-for-play politics; became industry lobbyist.
 - The Alabama Ethics Commissions unanimously found that Glenn violated ethics laws by accepting flights to Disney World and Hilton Head from a PR firm representing a contractor doing work for the Department.
 - As Alabama Office of Water Resources director, oversaw dramatic cuts to pollution enforcement.
-

Cathy Stepp



Deputy Regional Administrator, Region 7

- Helps oversee EPA operations in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska.
- As Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources chief, changed agency from environmental regulator into a rubber stamp for polluting businesses.
- Slashed pollution fines to 30-year low while dissolving science bureau and firing staff.
- Discounted scientific evidence.
- Nonpartisan auditors concluded that Stepp's department failed to follow its own enforcement policies against water polluters more than 94 percent of the time between 2005 and 2015.
- Prevented officials from testifying before the state legislature on bills that would affect business.